

What is claimed is:

1. A method of abstracting an electronic document comprising the following steps:  
prompting a user to select at least one abstracted version of the electronic document;  
selecting a set of instructions for abstracting the electronic document;  
creating the abstracted version of the electronic document by executing the selected set of instructions; and  
outputting the abstracted version of the electronic document in a predetermined format.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions are particularized to the electronic document.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the set of instructions further comprise a description of at least one abstracted version capable of being created by executing the set of instructions.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions are attached to the electronic document.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical articles.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical adverbs.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical adjectives.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for  
2 contracting verb clauses.

1 9. A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program code for  
2 abstracting an electronic document, the medium comprising:

3 a first code segment for prompting a user to select at least one abstracted version  
4 of the electronic document;

5 a second code segment for selecting a set of instructions for abstracting the  
6 electronic document;

7 a third code segment for creating the abstracted version of the electronic  
8 document by executing the selected set of instructions; and

9 a fourth code segment for outputting the abstracted version of the electronic  
10 document in a predetermined format.

11 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of instructions are  
12 particularized to the electronic document.

13 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of instructions are  
14 attached to the electronic document.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of instructions  
2 comprise instructions for removing grammatical articles.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of claims 9, wherein the set of instructions  
2 comprise instructions for removing grammatical adverbs.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of instructions  
2 comprise instructions for removing grammatical adjectives.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of instructions  
2 comprise instructions for contracting verb clauses.

1 16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave encoded with computer  
2 program code for abstracting an electronic document comprising:

3 a first code segment for prompting a user to select at least one abstracted version  
4 of the electronic document;

5 a second code segment for selecting a set of instructions for abstracting the  
6 electronic document;

7 a third code segment for creating the abstracted version of the electronic  
8 document by executing the selected set of instructions; and

9 a fourth code segment for outputting the abstracted version of the electronic  
10 document in a predetermined format.

11 17. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions are  
12 particularized to the electronic document.

13 18. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions are attached  
14 to the electronic document.

1 19. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions comprise  
2 instructions for removing grammatical articles.

1 20. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions comprise  
2 instructions for removing grammatical adverbs.

1 21. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions comprise  
2 instructions for removing grammatical adjectives.

22. The computer data signal of claim 16, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for contracting verb clauses.

23. A system for abstracting an electronic document comprising:  
a means for storing an electronic document;  
a means for storing at least one set of instructions for abstracting the electronic document;  
a means for creating the abstracted version of the electronic document; and  
a means for outputting the abstracted version of the electronic document in a predetermined format.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions are particularized to the electronic document.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions are attached to the electronic document.

26. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical articles.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical adverbs.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for removing grammatical adjectives.

29. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of instructions comprise instructions for contracting verb clauses.